

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 080368

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APPROVED BY S:THE SECRETARY

NEA:ALATHERTON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 080368

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR BROWN FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE, US

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION

1. YOUR FULLER ACCOUNT OF YOUR TALK WITH THE CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP WAS GRAPHIC EVIDENCE OF THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN SHAPING ANY COHERENT SOLUTION IN LEBANON. WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR REPORT OF YOUR TALK WITH JUMBLATT.

2. YOU WILL HAVE SEEN DICK MURPHY'S REPORT OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH ASAD (DAMASCUS 1985). ASAD'S ANALYSIS OF THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN TRYING TO STEER LEBANON THROUGH THE NEXT CRITICAL WEEKS WITHOUT SOME CENTRAL FORCE IS A PERSUASIVE ONE, AND GRATIFIED AS WE ARE THAT A CEASEFIRE HAS BEEN ARRANGED WE ARE SKEPTICAL THAT THE LEFT WILL REFRAIN FROM TAKING TO THE FIELD AGAIN TO BACK UP ITS POLITICAL DEMANDS AS THE BARGAINING PROCEEDS. THE INTRODUCTION OF SYRIAN FORCES TO MAINTAIN THE CEASEFIRE STILL SEEMS TO US, HOWEVER, A VERY RISKY PROPOSITION AND AT BEST ONLY A LAST RESORT. I WANT YOUR BEST ASSESSMENT,
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AS WE GO ALONG, OF THE PROSPECTS FOR KEEPING THE CEASEFIRE

IN EFFECT AND SUCCESSFULLY CARRYING THROUGH THE POLITICAL
PROCESS WITHOUT A FORCE AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE CENTRAL
AUTHORITY AS IT TAKES SHAPE. KISSINGER

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